

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line ²⁴~~24~~, with the following amended paragraph:

Map
10/15/08

Referring, in addition, to Fig. 14, when bales 13 have been stacked to the desired height and spars 41 located, the exposed legs 43 of the spars 41 will be aligned with an anchor dowel 17 in the foundation 12. A connecting rod 51, preferably #4 rebar, of a length approximately equal to the height of the wall is secured to each anchor dowel 17 and all of the spar legs 43 aligned with that anchor dowel 17. Because of the highly flammable nature of straw bale material, it is not advisable to attach the connecting rods to the dowel 17 and spar legs 43 by welding. Any one of numerous well known mechanical clamping mechanisms for securing two lengths of rebar together (such as a compression clamp 50, as shown in Fig. 15) is suitable for attaching the connecting rods 51 to the anchor dowels 17. While similar clamping mechanisms can be used to attach the spar legs 43 to a connecting rod 51, connecting them together with simple wire ties 52 (as indicated in Fig. 16) is satisfactory. Once the connecting rods 51 are secured to dowels 17, spar legs 43 and ladder(s) 44 (if any), a structurally rigid truss system has been constructed that is fully capable of supporting the wall during the application of the membrane 16 (see Fig. 1) without external bracing.